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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------037632 240847Z /10
P R 231439Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7022
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4739

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: YO CH US
SUBJ: AMBASSADORS'S JUNE 22 MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY LONCAR

REF: A) BELGRADE 3878 (NOTAL B) STATE 155951 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DURING A CONVERSATION JUNE 22 WITH THE AMBASSADOR, UNDERSECREATRY IN THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUDIMIR LONCAR STATEED THAT CHINESE PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG WILL BE VISITING YUGOSLAVIA BETWEEN AUGUST 20 AND AUGUST 31. HE CHARACTERIZED YUGOSLAV-CHINESE RELATIONS AS HAVING BEEN "NORMALIZED", ASSERTING HOWEVER THAT "SO FAR" THIS HAS HAD NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON BELGRADE'S RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. AMBASSADOR BRIEFED LONCAR ON BRZEZINSKI'S CHINA TRIP PER REFTEL B, FOR WHICH LONCAR EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION. LONCAR ALSO INDICATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN STATE OF US-CUBAN RELATIONS, EXPRESSING THE YUGOSLAV HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE NO "DRAMATIC" DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS REGARD PRIOR TO THE JULY NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN BELGRADE. REFERRING TO A JUNE 21 SPEECH AT THE LCY CONGRESS BY FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL), LONCAR INDICATED AGAIN YUGOSLAVIA'S DETERMINATION TO PLAY A MODERATING ROLE IN THE NAM JULY BELGRADE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONVOCATION, BUT CAUTIONED THAT EVENTS IN US-CUBAN RELATIONS COULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON THAT EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 21 THE AMBASSADOR CALLED ON STATE UNDER-SECRETARY BUDIMIR LONCAR TO BRIEF HIM ON BRZEZINSKI'S CHINA TRIP ALONG THE LINES OF REF B. LONCAR EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION, FOR WHICH WE

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THANK WASHINGTON. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED LONCAR WHETHER
IN LIGHT OF THE INCREASINGLY CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN
BELGRADE AND PEKING THERE HAD BEEN ANY ADVERSE EFFECT
ON BELGRADE'S RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. LONCAR
REPLIED THAT DURING THE PERIOD WHEN YUGOSLAVIA'S
RELATIONS WITH PEKING HAD NOT BEEN GOOD AND THEIR TIES
WITH MOSCOW HAD BEEN IMPROVING, YUGOSLAVIA HAD
SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED ANY IMPLICATION THAT GOOD TIES
WITH MOSCOW MEANT BAD TIES WITH PEKING. IT IS
YUGOSLAVIA'S INTENT TO FOLLOW THE SAME COURSE AS THEIR
RELATIONS WITH PEKING NORMALIZE: THEY WILL DO
EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO AVOID ANY NEGATIVE LINKAGE BETWEEN
GOOD REALTIONS WITH THE PRC AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE USSR.

2. LONCAR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHILE MOSCOW MAY NOT LIKE
WHAT IS HAPPENING, "SO FAR" THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE
OF SOVIET DISPLEASURE. HE POINTED TO THE PRESENCE OF
KULAKOV AS SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE TO THE 11TH LCY
CONGRESS AS EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE SEEKING A
FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOY. LONCAR CHARACTERIZED
KULAKOV AS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST SENIOR SOVIETS WITH CLOSE
TIES TO BREZHNEV, AND ONE WHO MIGHT EVEN TAKE THE TOP
SPOT ONE DAY. THUS, HIS PRESENCE AT THE CONGRESS WAS A
SIGNIFICANT DEMONSTRATION OF THE IMPORTANCE THE SOVIETS
ATTACH TO THEIR TIES WITH YUGOSLAVIA.

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3. LONCAR WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATE OF US-SOVIET
AND US-CUBAN REALTIONS. HE ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE
ANY NEW (BY WHICH HE MEANT ADVERSE) EVENTS TO BE
EXPECTED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HAVANA IN
THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, OBSERVING AS HE HAS ON PREVIOUS
OCCASIONS THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S MODERATING ROLE AT THE JULY
NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING WOULD BE MADE MORE
DIFFICULT IF THE US AND CUBANS APPEAR ON A COLLISION
COURSE OVER AFRICA. LONCAR SAID THAT THE SPEECH DELIVERED
AT THE LCY CONGRESS THE PRECEDING DAY BY FORMER FOREIGN
MINISTER MINIC ON NON ALIGNMENT IS AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT
ON YUGOSLAVIA'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS RADICAL ELEMENTS WITHIN
THE NAM. (WE WILL SEPARATELY REPORT MINIC'S SPEECH,
WHICH ASSERTS THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE
TO PLAY A MODERATING ROLE IN THE NAM, RESISTING PRESSURES
TO SIDE WITH THE RADICALS.) LONCAR'S CLEAR IMPLICATION
WAS THAT SHOULD US-CUBAN RELATIONS DETERIORATE OVER THE
NEXT FEW WEEKS THIS COULD AFFECT THE GOY'S ABILITY TO
FURTHER THE CAUSE OF "MODERATION" AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE.
EAGLEBURGER

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